

Salvation and Discipleship (Part 3)

John 6:60-69



(23) *Salvation* involves a faith response to the message of the cross (1 Cor. 1:18; 15:1-4). *Discipleship* involves bearing one's cross daily (Luke 9:53). (24) God's salvation is *perfect*, lacking nothing (Col. 2:10; 1 Cor. 1:30). My measuring up to the full demands of discipleship is *less than perfect*, but "I follow after" (Phil. 3:12-13). (25) *To be saved* a person must believe on Christ (John 3:16; Acts 16:31). The requirement for salvation is simple faith and trust in the all-sufficient Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. *To be a true disciple* a person must continue in Christ's Word, love Christ supremely, deny self, forsake all that he possesses, bear his cross daily, etc. The requirements of discipleship are many and they are difficult, but God's grace is sufficient. (26) Discipleship (and all that it involves) is *not a requirement* for salvation. On the other hand, discipleship is the *obligation* of every saved person. (27) *Every saved person* is saved by faith and faith alone (not by obedience or by surrender or by submission or by love for Christ or by giving up possessions, etc.). *Every saved person* is a follower of Christ because Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice...and they follow Me" (John 10:27). In this sense every saved person is a disciple (follower of Christ), and yet some sheep follow the Shepherd more closely than others. (28) *Salvation* relates primarily to **justification**. *Discipleship* relates primarily to **sanctification**. Justification and sanctification are related but they must not be confused. They must be kept distinct. The same is true for salvation and discipleship. (29) *Salvation* puts a person into a right relationship with Christ the Teacher. *Discipleship* is an ongoing relationship and interaction between Teacher and student (a lifelong process). (30) *The terms of salvation* must not be blurred; *the importance of discipleship* must not be minimized.

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org

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